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The President's Daily Brief

25X1

August 13, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

August 13, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Turks last night gave Greece 24 hours to accept new proposals for the constitutional future of Cyprus--a division of the island into small ethnic political units under two autonomous, but federated, administrations. The Turkish foreign minister has said that, if the demands are not accepted today, "the Geneva talks will be over." Such a break could be a prelude to further Turkish military action. *(Page 1)*

Israel will soon hold a nationwide test of its military reservist mobilization plan, the first large-scale call-up since the October war. Both Egypt and Syria have denounced the Israeli action as a cover for an attack. *(Page 3)*

Combat throughout most of Cambodia has settled into the normal rainy season pattern of relatively small-scale fighting on widely separated fronts. *(Page 4)*

Soviet reporting of developments in Washington has begun to include tentative commentary on the reasons behind President Nixon's resignation and some analysis of the probable foreign policy orientation of your administration. *(Page 5)*

The Soviets yesterday launched an unmanned spacecraft, probably a modified Soyuz configured for the US-Soviet space mission scheduled next year. *(Page 6)* 25X1

Panama [redacted] Cuba [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] *(Page 7)*

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A note on the polarization of the political situation in South Korea appears on *Page 8*.

At Annex [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] China [redacted]

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TURKEY-GREECE-CYPRUS

Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit, speaking in Ankara last night, said Greece had 24 hours to accept new Turkish proposals for the constitutional future of Cyprus. These proposals would divide Cyprus into small ethnic political units--cantons--but would retain the concept of two autonomous ethnic administrations within a federation. Until yesterday, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots had insisted on the division of the island into two federal states under a weak central government.

Yesterday evening Turkish Foreign Minister Gunes delivered the ultimatum to British Foreign Secretary Callaghan. Turkey must be given immediate administration over its major canton--the area between Kyrenia and Famagusta. Agreement must also be reached to negotiate the size and boundaries of five other cantons--around Paphos, Polis, Lefka, Lanarka, and Karavas--ultimately giving Turkish Cypriots control over one third of the island. Gunes told Callaghan he had "iron-clad" instructions from Ankara to get agreement on these points at the tripartite meeting scheduled for 10 p.m. Geneva time last night.

Greek Cypriot leader Clerides and Greek Foreign Minister Mavros announced they would not attend the 10 p.m. talks. Callaghan persuaded Gunes to accept a postponement until this morning, but Gunes told reporters that, if the Turkish proposals are not accepted at today's meeting, "the Geneva talks will be over."

After talking to Gunes and Callaghan, US Assistant Secretary Hartman reported that the Turks appear to be bent on breaking up the conference. Callaghan told Hartman that acceptance of the Turkish proposals would mean the end of Clerides and, possibly, a right-wing military coup in Greece. Acceptance was therefore out of the question.

Callaghan further reported that Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash was extremely upset over Turkey's intransigence. Denktash [redacted] cautioned Callaghan that the Turkish army would not hesitate to fire even on UN troops if they got in the way. 25X1 25X1

Gunes explained the Turkish position to Hartman by saying that Turkish politicians can no longer withstand intense domestic popular pressures. He was evasive when pressed about what Turkey would do if Clerides rejects the proposals today.

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On the assumption that the Turks have decided to break off the talks, Secretary Hartman suggests three possible Turkish courses of action. They may intend to:

--initiate unilateral military action;

--aggravate tensions until an "incident" provides provocation for action;

--threaten to leave NATO in hopes that they can elicit US support in getting what they want.

Hartman concludes that Ankara's frame of mind is extremely dangerous. Either Ecevit is blindly optimistic, or he is so weak that popular and military pressures are proving too much for him.

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The Turkish armed forces are still in an advanced state of readiness, but we have no evidence that they plan an immediate military move. Turkish troops in and around Istanbul reportedly were moved into defensive positions on the Black Sea coast last week. The shift may have been a reaction to reports from Athens that the Soviets had pledged to assist Greece if Turkey invades. The Greeks have since denied that any pledge was received.

Turkish concern about its northern flank has grown as the Soviet Union seemed to be moving closer to supporting Greek views on Cyprus and away from an earlier partiality toward Turkey.

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ISRAEL

Tel Aviv will soon hold a nationwide test of its military reservist mobilization plan, the first large-scale call-up since the October war. Israel's defense rests on early strategic warning of hostile intentions and rapid mobilization of the reserves to support the country's relatively small standing forces.

During the past two weeks, Israel has held a series of large-scale maneuvers and has already mobilized some reserves. These maneuvers and the prospective nationwide test of the mobilization system have caused nervousness in Arab capitals. Both Egypt and Syria have denounced the Israeli actions as a cover for war, and Cairo apparently has responded by recalling some of its reserves and by placing some of its units on alert.

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The mobilization test could come within the next few days and will involve all branches of service. Reservists will be summoned by public call-up through the press and radio.

Press reports indicate that less than half the reserve force will be mobilized and that there will be only a limited mobilization of civilian vehicles. The exercise reportedly is to last no more than 24 hours, and the Israelis say its duration will depend on the speed with which those called up report. Tel Aviv also says that it will inform the UN command and all foreign diplomatic representatives in Israel when the exercise is to occur.

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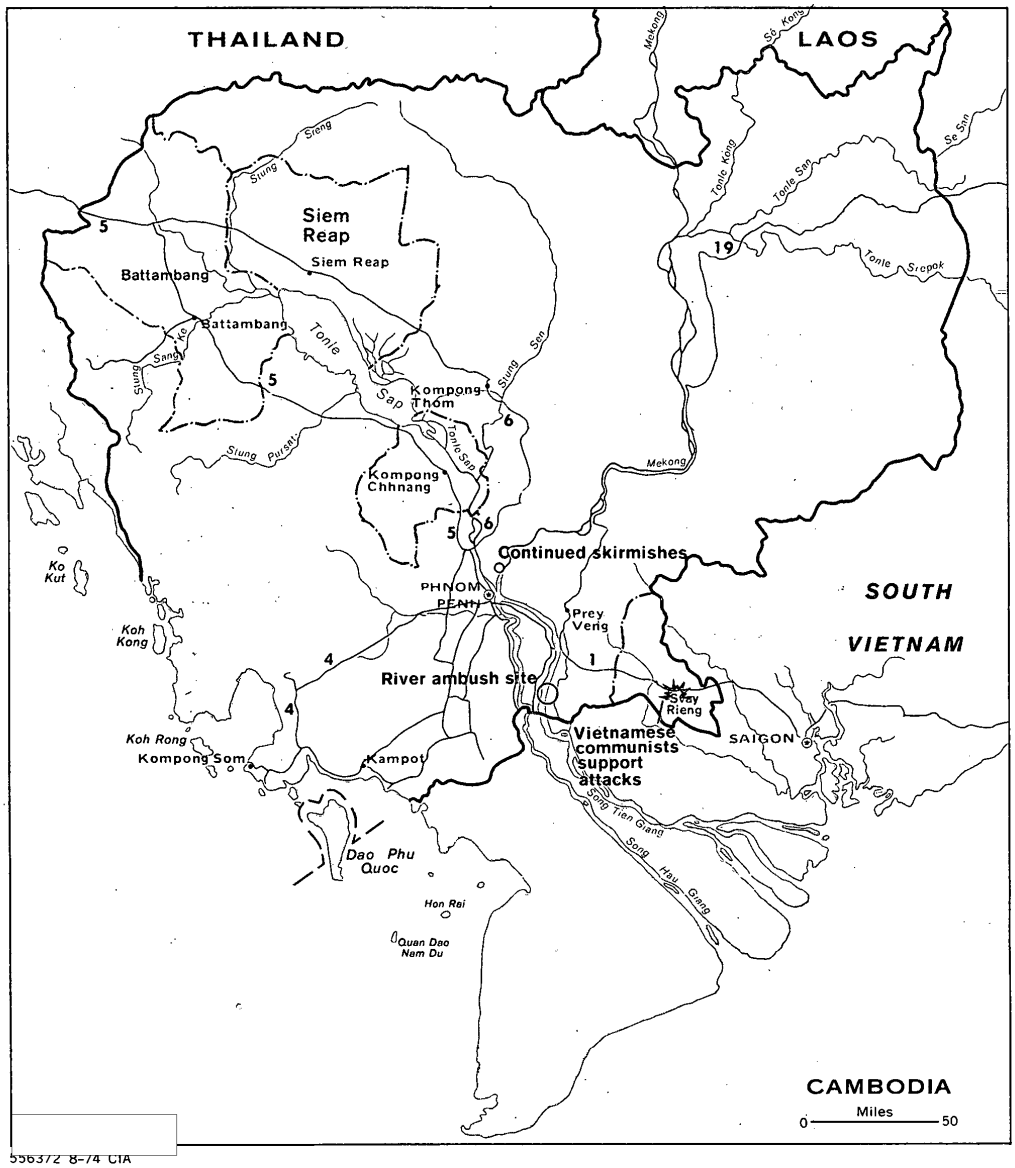

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CAMBODIA

Combat throughout most of the country has settled into the normal rainy season pattern of relatively small-scale fighting on widely separated fronts.

In the southeast, the communists have hit government units east of Svay Rieng City and have shelled the provincial capital itself. Recent intercepted messages stated that elements of the Viet Cong 5th Division were scheduled to join Khmer communist units in the attacks, and the local commander at Svay Rieng reported that his troops have recovered a number of Vietnamese bodies. Viet Cong participation in the attacks probably was in reaction to government forays near Vietnamese base areas east of Svay Rieng.

Sharp skirmishing continues on the west bank of the Mekong River ten miles above Phnom Penh, as government forces attempt to drive several insurgent battalions from the area. Fighting on the Mekong's east bank, opposite the capital city, has subsided following successful government counterattacks.

In the northwest, the contest for this fall's rice crop--which began with scattered Khmer communist attacks around Battambang City last month--has spilled over into nearby Kompong Chhnang and Siem Reap provinces. The Cambodian army high command has dispatched reinforcements to the area, and government forces are slowly regaining the initiative.

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FURTHER SOVIET REACTION

Soviet reporting on developments in Washington has begun to include tentative commentary on the reasons behind President Nixon's resignation and some analysis of the probable foreign policy orientation of your administration. The major message is one of satisfaction with your pledge of continuity in pursuing detente with the USSR, but there are undertones of concern.

In a roundtable discussion among senior Soviet political observers broadcast Sunday, the Watergate affair was ascribed to legislative-executive antagonisms, machinations involving rival "monopolies," inter-party struggles, and economic difficulties.

This kind of analysis is typical of Soviet attempts to summarize and explain Watergate in ideological terms, while avoiding all but the briefest mention of particulars.

An extensive media campaign to reassure the Soviet people on the health of detente has taken two lines:

--Statements of continued support for detente by yourself, Secretary Kissinger, and Congressional leaders have been given heavy play in the press, accompanied by items demonstrating the "overwhelming" popularity of this policy in the US.

--Arguments by Soviet commentators that "objective realities," including a change in the international balance of power, are operating to ensure that US policy-makers continue to seek improved relations with the USSR, regardless of personalities or internal political developments.

Nevertheless, some cautionary reaction to the new situation appeared over the weekend. A Pravda article on Sunday warned that opponents of detente--the so-called military-industrial complex, the AFL-CIO leadership, and "Zionists"--still exist in the US. Another Pravda article resurrected the thesis that certain circles in the US are not above using Watergate to question the successes of detente and the positive development of US-Soviet relations. The reemergence of this line of reasoning indicates lingering Soviet concern that US policy toward the USSR could still somehow change. Tass Director General Zamyatin's remarks in a broadcast on Saturday may have been indicative of similar nervousness. After ascribing Watergate to a partisan campaign against President Nixon, he vehemently stressed the importance of observing the summit agreements, especially those curbing nuclear war.

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USSR

The Soviets yesterday launched an unmanned spacecraft from the Tyuratam missile and space center. The spacecraft is probably a modified Soyuz configured for the joint US-Soviet mission scheduled for next year. The flight presumably is intended to check out changes in the spacecraft and crew equipment made specifically for the joint mission. The Soviets are also expected to conduct a series of manned Soyuz missions before the joint flight.

There are indications that a manned spaceflight is planned for the near future. 25X1

The impending flight may be related to preparations for the joint mission, but it is also possible that the Soviets could be preparing to send a second crew to the Salyut space station which was occupied for about two weeks in July and which is still in orbit.

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PANAMA-CUBA

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NOTE

South Korea: The sentencing of several major figures for anti-regime activities has further polarized the political situation in South Korea. Bishop Chi Hak-sun's sentence of 15 years imprisonment will provoke a strong reaction in Korea, from the church in particular. Several appeal routes are open to the defendants, but any decision to alter the sentences must come from President Pak.

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ANNEX

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CHINA [redacted]

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